

Dr. Deb Stark, ADM Food Safety and Environment to Address Ridgetown's 58th Graduating Class

The 58th annual Spring Convocation at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus will be held on Friday, June 4, 2010. Many friends and family members will be guests as 167 students graduate from diploma and certificate programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Management, Veterinary Technology and Veterinary Office Administration.

"I am always excited to help celebrate the achievements of our students with family, friends, staff and donors," says Campus Director, Dr. Art Schaafsma. "We want our graduates to see this special day as just the beginning of their life-long learning process."

The guest speaker for graduation will be Dr. Deb Stark, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Food Safety and Environment, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Dr. Stark has had a diversified career and made significant leadership contributions to agriculture and rural Ontario including a recent role as the province's Chief Veterinarian.

The ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre.

The Class of 2010 has selected Kayla Bishop, an Environmental Management diploma student from Bluevale, ON, as class valedictorian. Kayla plans to continue her studies in the Agriculture Diploma program at Ridgetown in September 2010. Kayla comes from a diversified family farm and has been involved in community and school activities from a young age. Earlier this year Kayla was honoured by the Ontario Agriculture College (OAC) Foundation for her significant campus leadership abilities and was presented with the Dr. Clay and Dorothy Switzer OAC Diploma Leadership Scholarship.

In addition to receiving a diploma or certificate, many deserving students will receive special awards for academic proficiency and outstanding leadership. "We are fortunate to have financial support from our local community and businesses towards our awards program," says Schaafsma. This year, over \$20,000 in cash and gifts will be awarded.

The OAC academic programs offered at Ridgetown Campus provide students with the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable professors and lecturers, and develop important skills needed to begin their careers.

contact us

For further information Contact:

Liz Meidlinger

Manager, Communications

519-674-1587

lmeidlin@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

Dr. Art Schaafsma

Director, Ridgetown Campus

519-674-1505

aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca